



Whereas by the auncient treaties of entrecourses, which from time to time haue bene renewed betweene the Queenes Maiestie our moste gracious soueraigne Lady, and diuers of her highnes most noble progenitours, Kings of this Realme, and the Princes and Lordes of the lowe Countries, it hath bene alwaies agreed and thought meete, for the wealth and profit of them both, that there should be a mutual and free traficke & trade betweene the marchantes of both the Countries: And thereupon hath ensued betweene them, and the marchants of the Staple of England, in their staple marchandises, a continual trafick, & namely in wooll and wooll felles, for the drapery of sundry of their Townes there, which through the great troubles, and ciuil warres lately had in the sayd lowe countries, hath bene of late something discontinued, all passages being either stopped by the enemye, or so full of daunger, as no trade could be conueniently had into those partes, without great perill of losse of the whole aduentures, which impediments are now remoued (thankes be to God) in the best and moste commodious places of the said Countries, for the sayd traficke, the countries of Holland and Zealand being in good peace and quiet, without any feare or danger of new troubles to fall amongst them, And therefore the people of the said countries are desirous to renewe their former olde trade, for the which the States of those countries, haue solicited and sued to her Maiestie by their letters and messengers: The Queenes most excellent Maiestie, of her great clemencie and godly disposition, hauing great commiseration and pitie of the afflictions & miseries of the subiects of those partes, and in respect thereof, & of the said humble request, and being credibly informed, that it is commodious and not vnprofitable for the state of this her Maiesties common weale, to recontinue the auncient amitie and entrecourse with her said neighbours of the lowe countries, And that through & by the discontinuance of the sayd trade of the marchants of the Staple of late yeres, all wooll felles, aswel marchantable as others, haue bene & are altogether pulled, and the wooll thereof for the most part, wrought by strangers here in England, into sundry newe and vnecessary deuises not profitable for the Realme: Her Maiestie therefore by the aduise of her most honourable priue Counsel, intending to preuent those mischiefes, and to prouide remedy for the premisses, as also bring willing to satisfie and relieue the sayd subiects of the lowe countries, and to auoyde diuers other inconueniences that may growe & ensue, if the inordinate pulling of marchantable wooll felles should not be restrained, straightly chargeth & commaundeth, that from Shroue Tuesday next comming after the date hereof, and so yereely from that day commonly called Shroue Tuesday, as it shall fall, vntill the last day of June yereely following, no maner of person or persons, vpon paine of her Maiesties indignation, displeasure & imprisonment, and further punishment at her Highnes pleasure, by any waies, arte, or meanes, directly or indirectly, shal pul or clippe, or cause to be pulled or clipped, any maner of wooll fell, commonly called Marchantable or Staple felles, accustomed heretofore to be dyed for the marchants of the Staple, but that all the same marchantable & Staple felles, falling by slaughter or otherwise, from the sayd Shroue Tuesday vntill the last day of June yereely be dyed, according to the forme and true meaning of this proclamation. And for the better execution hercof, her Maiestie by the aduise aforesaid, straightly chargeth & commaundeth all and singular her Iustices of the peace, Maiors, Sherifes, Baylifes and other head officers, of any Counties or Shires within the Realme, aswell within liberties as without, not onely as much as in them lieth, to see this present proclamation truly executed, but also if any person be iustly accused before him or them, for contemning or breaking this proclamation, or any part thereof, they shal commit such party to ward, there to remaine without bayle or mainprise, till her Maiesties and her most honourable Counsels pleasure be further knownen. Provided alwayes, that if before the first day of August, euery yere yereely, al such marchantable wooll felles be not bought by the marchants of the Staple, that then it shalbe lawfull for the felmongers, Glouers, & other persons, to pull all such felles as shalbe then remaining and vnbought of the former yeres growth, any thing in this present Proclamation to the contrary notwithstanding, And this proclamation to continue during her Maiesties pleasure. Given at her Maiesties Palace of Westminster, the xxviii. daye of February, in the one & twentieth yere of her Raigne.

God saue the Queene.

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to the Queenes Maiestie.